

Cape May County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report Summary

Fact Sheet

The Office of Cancer Control and Prevention of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction with a mandate from the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey and in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, has developed comprehensive cancer capacity and needs assessment reports for each county in the state. These reports are a result of initial implementation steps of the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP).

The purpose of the reports is to identify the major cancer issues affecting each county and the county's available resources for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, as well as to offer recommendations for improvement. Each report was written by county evaluators from a county-level point of view.

County Demographic Profile

- **2000 Population:** 102,326
- **Median Age:** 42.3
- **Racial Composition:**
 - 92% White
 - 5% Black
 - 1% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - 3% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income:** \$41,591
- **% of residents ≥ 25 without high school diploma:** 18.2%
- **% of residents living below the poverty level:** 8.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

Cape May County men have the highest incidence rates of cancer in New Jersey. From 1996-2000, an average of 666 men and 454.5 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Cape May County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 262.1 for men, and 180.6 for women in Cape May County, compared to the state rate of 261.1 for men and 181.6 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Cape May County are prostate, breast, lung, and colorectal.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

Overarching Issues

- **Access and Resources:** An estimated 18,000 to 22,000 Cape May County residents are without health insurance.
- **School Health Education:** Many schools teach about cancer, but there is no standard curriculum.
- **Providers and Treatment:** No major deficiencies were identified among providers and treatment. There are a number of healthcare facilities servicing Cape May County.
- **Advocacy:** Most local initiatives focus on smoking or take place at the state level. Efforts are needed to impact state legislation that will ultimately affect each county by providing resources or mandating levels of care for residents.
- **Palliative Care:** Although there is pain management available through both hospices and hospitals, due to the small size of Cape May County, there are no freestanding hospice centers.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** It is estimated that approximately 43,000 Cape May County adults are overweight or obese. Preventative nutrition services are needed in hospitals and physicians' offices.
- **Childhood Cancers:** A lack of resources exists due to specialization of the field and low number of cases.

Cape May County & New Jersey

1996-2000 Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Cape May County	NJ	Cape May County	NJ
Male	666.0	628.7	262.1	261.1
Female	454.5	453.7	180.6	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	133.6	138.5	35.9	31.3
Cervical, female	9.9	10.9	2.8	3.1
Colorectal, male	79.8	79.0	25.6	29.5
Colorectal, female	51.5	54.4	18.2	20.1
Lung, male	113.9	92.5	83.2	74.8
Lung, female	69.2	55.4	49.8	41.6
Melanoma, male	32.1	20.1	5.1	4.4
Melanoma, female	17.1	11.9	1.8	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	21.3	15.7	4.2	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.8	6.4	0.8	1.6
Prostate, male	194.6	194.3	32.8	32.9

Sources: ¹ New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

² National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>)

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.
A rate at least 10% higher than the corresponding state rate is shown in **bold italics**.

County Recommendations

- Develop a campaign on risk factors, early detection & screening, signs and symptoms, and prevention through media, the Burdette Tomlin Memorial Parish Nurse Program, and the Cancer Coalition.
- Educate students in school health classes about chronic diseases, specifically cancer, to facilitate a clear understanding of the importance of prevention, screening, and health insurance coverage, as well as nutrition and physical activity issues.
- Teach healthcare providers about the importance of cancer screening.
- Promote tobacco use reduction to prevent lung and oral cancers, as well as other cancers. Smoking cessation programs should be advertised and continued with financial assistance for those in need. The Communities Against Tobacco (CAT) Coalition should be supported and strengthened to increase the number of public areas that are smoke free.

For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:
www.state.nj.us/health/ccp